

Application No.: 10/620,924

Docket No.: 30880/30011B

REMARKS**I. Objections to the Specification**

The Examiner objected to the specification due to informalities, and these objections were attended to by the foregoing amendment. In particular, the first paragraph of the application was amended to update the priority information. Claim 80 was amended to insert a period at the end of the claim. In addition, claim 74 was amended to add "step d."

The Examiner also stated that the title of the invention was not descriptive. However, the title was amended to "The Use of Methylated Nucleic Acid Segments for Isolating Centromere DNA" by the amendment dated February 25, 2004. This title is descriptive of the claimed subject-matter.

The Examiner objected to the abstract because it compared the invention with the prior art. In response, the abstract is amended by the foregoing amendment. Applicants believe all the objections to the specification are now moot and request that the objections be withdrawn.

II. The Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, First and Second Paragraphs Should be Withdrawn

The Examiner rejected claims 71-73 and 117-119 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph for allegedly failing to meet the written description requirement. Applicants believe that these claims are adequately described in the specification. In order to expedite prosecution, claims 71-73 and 117-119 are canceled without prejudice. Thus, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph is moot.

The Examiner rejected claims 71-116 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention. As stated above, claims 71-73 and 117-119 are canceled without prejudice. The Examiner stated that claims 74-116 were confusing because it cannot be determined what action(s) is encompassed by the last detecting step. In response, claim 74 is amended to recite the steps of hybridizing the nick-translated product from step (c) to candidate nucleic acids and detecting a candidate nucleic acid sequence that

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hybridizes to the nick-translated genomic DNA. The inserted language in amended claim 74 is similar to the language suggested by the Examiner in the Action. This amendment is supported in the specification at page 73 and does not add new matter. In view of this amendment, the claims are clear and definite and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendment and remarks, claims 74-116 are believed to be in condition for allowance and early notice thereof is requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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